

President should both have in hand better information on the potential costs and benefits of unilateral sanctions proposals. And they should both proceed in a more deliberative and disciplined manner.

#### SANCTIONS REFORM ACT

The bill Congressman CRANE and I will introduce is a bill that seeks to accomplish these objectives. H.R. 2708 would reform the process by which both Congress and the executive branch consider unilateral sanctions proposals.

The bill defines a unilateral sanction as any restriction or condition on foreign economic activity that is imposed solely by the United States for reasons of foreign policy or national security.

For both Congress and the executive branch, the bill sets out guidelines for future sanctions proposals and procedures for their consideration and implementation.

The guidelines would be largely similar for both branches. We propose that sanctions bills approved by Congress and sanctions measures imposed by the President:

- Contain a 2-year sunset;
- Provide waiver authority for the President;
- Protect the sanctity of existing contracts;
- Be targeted as narrowly as possible on those responsible for sanctionable conduct;
- Minimize any interference with humanitarian work performed by nongovernmental organizations; and
- Include measures to address any costs incurred by U.S. agricultural interests, which are especially vulnerable to foreign retaliation.

With the exception of this agriculture provision, all of the guidelines would be mandatory for the executive branch. But the President could waive several of them in the event of a national emergency.

The bill's procedural reforms for Congress would require a committee of primary jurisdiction to include in its report on a sanctions bill an analysis by the President of the bill's likely impact on a range of U.S. foreign policy, economic, and humanitarian interests. The committee would also need to explain in its report why it did not adhere to any of the sanctions guidelines.

By invoking the Unfunded Federal Mandates Act of 1995, the bill would also require a report by the Congressional Budget Office on a sanctions bill's likely economic impact on the U.S. private sector. Under the terms of the Unfunded Mandates Act, the bill could not be considered on the House or Senate floor until the CBO analysis was completed and made public.

With respect to the Executive Branch, the bill would require the President to report to Congress prior to implementation on the likely impact of a proposed measure on U.S. foreign policy, economic, and humanitarian interests. The President would also be required to consult with Congress and to provide opportunities for public comment. To provide time for this consultation, public comment, and reporting, a sanction could not be imposed—except in the event of a national emergency—until 60 days after the President has announced his intention to do so.

It is also important to understand what our bill would not do:

The bill would not prevent Congress or the President from imposing unilateral sanctions.

The bill would not impact any sanctions currently in effect. The bill's executive branch

guidelines and procedural requirements would apply, however, to future sanctions imposed by the President pursuant to existing laws.

The bill would impose no limitations on the foreign countries or conduct that could be targeted by sanctions.

The bill would have no impact on any of the following kinds of measures—now or in the future:

Sanctions imposed under any multilateral agreement to address a foreign policy or national security matter—including proliferation, human rights, and terrorism.

Restrictions or controls on the export of munitions.

Resolutions disapproving a Presidential decision to maintain MFN trade privileges for China or any other country.

Measures imposed under U.S. laws and regulations implementing trade agreements, combating unfair foreign trade practices, and safeguarding the domestic market.

Import restrictions designed to protect food safety or to prevent disruption of domestic agricultural markets.

Measures to implement international environmental agreements.

Import restrictions designed to protect public health and safety.

This bill is not a red light for sanctions. It is a flashing yellow light. Its message is to take a careful look around and proceed with caution.

I hope that Members who have supported sanctions in the past—as I have—would be able to support this bill. To oppose a measure like this is to say that Congress and the President can't use and shouldn't have better information about sanctions. That is a position neither we nor the President should take. We need not fear information.

This bill would require those who propose sanctions to work harder to justify their proposals. It would ensure that elected officials and the public are better informed about the potential consequences of a proposed measure. Sanctions that receive the kind of careful scrutiny this bill will require are bound to be more effective in achieving their aims and to cause less collateral damage to humanitarian and economic interests. Better-designed sanctions will also be more likely to retain public support.

#### ANN'S CAMPAIGN FOR A SAFER AMERICA

#### HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, perhaps one of the greatest nightmares that any family could experience is receiving a call in the middle of the night informing you that your daughter has been killed. Even worse to learn that she has been murdered by a random shooting clear across the country. That is the nightmare faced by Coleman and Jean Harris of Mount Vernon, VA, last spring when their daughter, Ann was murdered while visiting friends in Tacoma, WA. This bright and energetic honor student had a most promising future, having just gained early admission into Purdue University. While riding in a car on March 27, she was struck and killed by a bullet fired sense-

lessly into the car by a joyriding group of young men. All too often these incidents of random violence are happening across America, representative of a society that is becoming more and more numb to the violence occurring on our streets. All of us know that something must be done to develop in our young kids a better sense of values and a more fundamental respect for human life. Getting guns out of the schools is critically important, but we must go further to address the value structure that results in such a cavalier attitude about life among many young people today.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, of the campaign that has been launched by the Harris family—Ann's Campaign for a Safer America. This effort represents a wonderful attempt by a grieving family to use the tragedy of Ann's death as the impetus for action to stop youth violence. The Harris family is speaking out in schools and in many communities to bring this message of understanding and respect for others to young kids. This is an incremental effort, Mr. Speaker, reaching out in small ways to kids who need this message. If it reaches 50, 100 or 1,000 young people and helps them to care more for their fellow students, it will represent a very significant and meaningful accomplishment. If even one more tragedy such as Ann's senseless murder can be averted through the work of this campaign, it will be a remarkable success and a very important memorial to this very talented and inspiring young woman. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Coleman and Jean Harris and express my appreciation for their desire to turn Ann's tragedy into a positive and constructive educational effort.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS, MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2607) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Moran substitute to H.R. 2607, the Fiscal Year 1998 District of Columbia appropriations bill. Unamended, H.R. 2607 will provide \$7 million for a school voucher program that will enable only 2,000 of the Districts 78,000 students to attend private schools or schools in the suburbs at the cost of \$3,200 each.

Vouchers will drain critical financial resources from the D.C. public schools. These schools—as are many schools across the Nation—are already overburdened with financial problems. We need to do all that we can to strengthen the D.C. Public School System, not weaken it. Over 5 years, the proposed voucher program will siphon \$45 million away from D.C. public schools while helping only 3 percent of the school population.

Mr. Chairman, supporters of school vouchers say that vouchers provide an opportunity to save 2,000 of the District's poor students. But, I ask, "What will happen to the District's other 76,000 students?" Supporters also believe that vouchers will be a shot in the arm for the D.C. Public School System, creating competition that will force them to improve the quality of education offered by the D.C. public schools. I do not believe that will be the case. The school voucher plan in this bill reaches a limited number of students seeking to opt out of the D.C. Public School System. In fact, it is not powerful enough to impact the school system in the way school voucher supporters would like to believe.

Residents of the District of Columbia do not support school vouchers. In fact, 89 percent said so in a referendum on school vouchers. The parents in the District want to rebuild and reform their Public School System. We have no business imposing a voucher program on the District, against its will. Rather, we are morally obligated to ensure that all students in the District of Columbia—and across the Nation—have equal access to quality education. We must not abandon the D.C. public schools. Instead, we must strengthen our commitment to improving them.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support—and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting—the Moran substitute to H.R. 2607. This substitute is clean and replaces the House provisions with the Senate bill—as reported by the Appropriations Committee. This version has no veto threats and does not include any controversial riders or funding for school vouchers. It also has bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Moran substitute.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, another day has gone by and still no campaign finance reform. As we approach the end of one more week we are inching closer and closer to the end of the 1997 legislative session. If we do not take action before we adjourn, now expected to be November 7, we will not have the chance to fix the campaign finance system before the 1998 election. Next year will be an election year and any chance to change the system during a campaign year is very unlikely.

Today we spent over an hour debating a contested election for Congress. That debate is important, and must take place. However, if this House can find the time to consider the outcome of one election, why can't we take the time to consider legislation that will impact every Congressional election from this day forward. The answer is clear. The leadership of this House has no desire to consider campaign finance reform.

The sad fact is, because of the reluctance of the House leadership to allow a vote, Members are going to be forced to take action on their own. That will happen tomorrow.

Before that happens, I hope the Speaker will reconsider his opposition to allowing a vote on campaign finance reform. I hope the Speaker will give the majority of the public

what they want. They want Congress to get serious about cleaning up our house by passing campaign finance reform.

#### TRIBUTE TO MID BRONX DESPERADOES

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mid Bronx Desperadoes for 22 years of service to our Bronx community.

Mr. Speaker, the Mid Bronx Desperadoes [MBD] was founded in 1974 as a group of volunteers who understood the need to revitalize the Crotona Park East section of Bronx Community District 3 that was devastated by arson, disinvestment, abandonment, and population loss.

First in cooperation with the local police and fire departments, and later with government officials and Community Board 3, the volunteer coalition was able to establish Mid Bronx Desperadoes Community Housing Corporation [MBDCHC] which created over 2,100 housing units with development costs of approximately \$213.5 million within Community District 3. MBD has also helped residents of the South Bronx become homeowners, serving as community sponsor, marketing and sales agents for 328 new homes, including the widely acclaimed Charlotte Street development of 89 single family homes. MBDCHC is a part of the Comprehensive Community Revitalization Program [CCRP].

Throughout its 22 years of service, MBD has been a model of excellence in providing our community with exemplary services through housing development and property management, economic development, and delivery of human services.

With the collaboration of a qualified staff, MBD has expanded its network to include additional services in conjunction with other local organizations and medical centers. Among these are: affordable housing development, marketing and management, Mid Bronx Community Development Federal Credit Union, Family Practice Health Center, Head Start Day Care, Community Crime Prevention, Comprehensive Case Management, Job Training and Placement, and Community Organizing.

The achievements of the Mid Bronx Desperadoes are measured by the people they have served. Thousands of Bronx residents have been employed and benefited from the center's education and training programs. And hundreds of thousands of people, from children to senior citizens, have received quality health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to honor the family and friends of the Mid Bronx Desperadoes. I ask my colleagues to join in celebrating this milestone and acknowledge this outstanding agency for 22 years of accomplishment and service for the South Bronx community.

#### SENSE-OF-CONGRESS RESOLUTION

### HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, for more than 200 years, our Nation has prospered as a democracy because we have enjoyed certain freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, and freedom of religion. And, as other nations have moved away from more restrictive forms of government toward democracy, those that have made successful transitions have guaranteed their citizens the same.

Mr. Speaker, although the emerging democracy of Russia has made significant strides since the fall of the Soviet Union, it appears that she has taken a step backward in recent days. On September 25, 1997, President Yeltsin signed into law the On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Association Act. This measure, which he vetoed once before, denies legal status to all religious groups except those which were officially registered with the Soviet Government at least 15 years ago. Such denial of legal status would automatically strip a number of religious minorities of fundamental rights, such as the right to rent or own property, employ religious workers, produce or possess religious literature, maintain bank accounts, or conduct organized charitable or educational activities.

This new law violates not only the Russian Constitution but also the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1989 Concluding Document of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. On a more basic level, the intent of the law runs contrary to the very principles that form the foundations of a democratic society. For, if the Russian Federation Government sees fit to discriminate against individuals and organizations according to their religious beliefs, what will prevent those in power from discriminating against those with different political or philosophic affiliations? What is to prevent government officials in outlying provinces, who have historically been oppressors of those of differing political or religious affiliation, from cracking down on religious and political minorities? What recourse is open to an individual who has been denied basic civil rights or who has been substantively injured by a local government official if the government of the nation essentially condones oppressive action?

These questions have already proven to be valid. The new law clearly states that religious organizations have until the end of 1999 to register with the Russian Federation under the new law. And officials from Russia's Ministry of Justice have assured religious organizations and officials in the United States that implementation of this new law will not result in discrimination or oppression of religious organizations in that nation. However, cases have already been reported of churches that have been prohibited from meeting in rented or public facilities as a direct result of this law. This leads me to question how effective the Federation will be in ensuring that the rights and freedoms of religious minorities are protected.

As such, I feel it necessary that we express our concern over the enactment of this law to the Russian Federation, and that we encourage the Federation to embrace all of the